

June 11, 1997

ODUSD(IA&I)AP
Standardization Program Division
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MEMORANDUM FOR DOD STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Policy Memo 97-5, "Superseding Specifications and Standards With Handbooks"

As we move away from specifications and standards towards guidance handbooks, we have noticed that preparing activities are stating on cancellation notices that a handbook supersedes the specification or standard. The same type of language also appears on the cover page of the handbook. Since a handbook is for guidance only, it cannot supersede a requirements-type document, such as specifications and standards. Stating that a handbook supersedes a requirements-type document has the unintended consequence of users citing the handbook as a requirement in solicitations, contracts, and technical documents.

Therefore, preparing activities shall not state or imply that a handbook supersedes a specification or standard. Instead, the cancellation notice for the specification or standard, and the notes section of the handbook, should include a statement similar to the one shown below. This is only an example. Preparing activities should develop appropriate text that best suits their specific circumstance.

"MIL-STD-XXX is hereby canceled. However, the technical information and the lessons learned from this standard have been preserved in MIL-HDBK-XXX. MIL-HDBK-XXX is for guidance only and should not be cited as a requirement, but information in the handbook may be useful in determining or evaluating requirements."

If you have any questions about this policy, contact your Departmental Standardization Office (DepSO).

/signed/

Andrew D. Certo
Chief,
Standardization Program Division

cc: DepSOs